

NEW RECORDS OF *CAFIUS CARIBEANUS* AND *C. SUBTILIS* IN FLORIDA AND VENEZUELA (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE)^{1,2}

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ABSTRACT: *Cafius caribeanus* is reported from Florida (USA) and Falcón (Venezuela), representing new state and national records. *Cafius subtilis* is reported from Florida, where it had earlier been recorded as *C. sericeus*. Collections of adults made by sieving drifted macrophytic algae on sea beaches on Loggerhead Key (Dry Tortugas, Florida) and Key West (Monroe Co., Florida) included 1 *C. caribeanus*, 25 *C. subtilis* and 82 *C. bistriatus*.

Three species of the staphylinine genus *Cafius* were reported from West Indian sea shores by Blackwelder (1943). Recent collections from sea shores in southernmost Florida (the Dry Tortugas and Key West) show the occurrence there of the same three species. This necessitates changes in the faunal lists for Florida and for the United States of America.

Collections were made by sieving drifted macrophytic algae on Loggerhead Key, Dry Tortugas, 30 June 1983 (S.R. Sims), and on Key West, Monroe Co., 1 May 1984 (J.H. Frank). All specimens were identified to species and sex by reference to Blackwelder (1943) and Orth and Moore (1980), and are in my collection.

Cafius bistriatus (Erichson), 1840

The 82 specimens collected include 18 males and 31 females from Loggerhead Key, and 21 males and 12 females from Key West. The species was reported from Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas by Wickham (1895). A female specimen with labels: "Dry Tortugas Fla. June 7-13, Wickham/Garden Key" was borrowed from the American Museum of Natural History and found to be conspecific with specimens from Loggerhead Key and Key West.

Cafius caribeanus Bierig, 1934

A male specimen was collected on Key West; none was found on Loggerhead Key. Although the species is known from several West Indian islands (Blackwelder, 1943) and from the Pacific coast of Mexico (Orth and Moore, 1980), it has not previously been recorded from any locality in

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the United States. It is conceivable that the individual mentioned by Wickham (1895, p. 211) "*Cafius* (?) sp. - One specimen" from Garden Key belonged to *C. caribbeanus*, but the specimen could not be found at the American Museum of Natural History where Wickham's other material is deposited. A series of 9 specimens (3 males, 6 females) from Venezuela (Estado Falcón, Chichiriviche, 15 August 1983, in seaweed on sea beach, J.H. Frank) likewise seems to represent the first record from that country.

Cafius subtilis Cameron, 1920

The 25 specimens collected (2 males and 8 females from Loggerhead Key, 12 males and 3 females from Key West) were conspecific with 3 specimens (2 males, 1 female) with labels "Dry Tortugas Fla. June 7-13, Wickham/Garden Key/*Cafius sericeus* Holme" borrowed from the American Museum of Natural History. The type locality of *C. subtilis* is Port Royal, Jamaica, and heretofore the species has been reported only from the West Indies (Blackwelder, 1943; Orth and Moore, 1980), so the present records are new for Florida and for the United States. Additional specimens from Dade, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties on the mainland of Florida have been examined.

Orth and Moore (1980) illustrated the aedeagus not only of *C. subtilis*, but also of *C. aguayoi* Bierig, 1934 (type locality: Woods Hole, Massachusetts) and *C. sericeus* (Holme), 1837 (type locality: Scilly Islands, England). The external structures of adults of these three species are very similar (Blackwelder, 1943; Orth and Moore, 1980) and, because *C. sericeus* was the only one of them described until the present century, Wickham's (1895) record of "*Cafius sericeus* Holme (?)" from the Dry Tortugas was reasonable. Studies since 1940 have not confirmed the presence of *C. sericeus* in the Americas (Blackwelder, 1943; Orth and Moore, 1980), and there is no record of *C. aguayoi* in Florida.

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